

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 04966 141656Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----055361 141722Z /72

P R 141621Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6281
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE
USDOCOSOUTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 4966

EXDIS

MIL ADDEES TREAT AS SPECAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON FOR ASST. SECRETARY VEST

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, GR, TU
SUBJECT: CYPRUS, EMBARGO AND NON-AGGRESSION

1. FOREIGN MINISTER RALLIS STRUCK A SOMBER TONE WHILE
DISCUSSING CYPRUS, AMONG OTHER MATTERS, WITH ME EARLIER TODAY.

2. EXPRESSING GENERAL DISSATISFACTION WITH THE MIX OF
EXISTING PROPOSALS AND OTHER ENDEAVORS ON VAROSHA, RAKKIS SAID
THAT MORE SERIOUS DIFFICULTY WAS IN TURKISH CONSTITUTIONAL
PROPOSALS WHICH ARE SIMPLY NON-NEGOTIABLE FOR BOTH NICOSIA
AND ATHENS. HE LATER SENT ME THE CRITIQUE PREPARED BY THE GOC
WHICH I NOW REALIZE HAS BEEN IN THE DEPARTMENT'S POSSESSION.
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RALLIS DID NOT HAVE IT IN HAND WHEN WE MET AND HENCE OMITTED
DETAILED DISCUSSION. I DREW THE IMPRESSION THAT RALLIS HAD
ONLY RECENTLY EXAMINED THE CONSTITUTIONAL IDEAS AND CONCEDED
MERIT IN NICOSIA'S ARGUMENTS.

3. TURNING TO THE EMBARGO, RALLIS SAID HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT
WHAT HE BELIEVED WOULD BE A NASTY REACTION IN ATHENS "WHEN"

IT IS LIFTED. HE TAKES CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL AS A GIVEN.
HE MENTIONED THIS, HE SAID, BECAUSE HE IS CONCERNED THAT WASHINGTON
UNDERESTIMATES THE IMPACT REPEAL WILL CAUSE HERE WHILE OVER-
ESTIMATING PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS' ABILITY TO CONTROL IT.
"HE IS NO MAGICIAN," RALLIS SAID, ADDING THAT CARAMANLIS HIMSELF
MAY UNDERESTIMATE THE POLITICAL DIFFICULTY AND PUBLIC CLAMOR THAT
WILL ENSUE. RALLIS DID AGREE WITH ME THAT CONTINUATION OF THE
EMBARGO WAS IN ON ONE'S INTEREST AND THAT IT HAD BECOME THE
PSYCHOLOGICAL OBSTACLE WHICH FRUSTRATED RELATIONS AMONG ALL
INTERESTED PARTIES, INCLUDING THE CONGRESS AND THE EXECUTIVE
BRANCHES IN WASHINGTON. HE RELUCTANTLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IT WOULD
BE BETTER TO HAVE IT DONE AND OUT OF THE WAY SOONER THAN LATER
AND THAT ALL OF US HAD SOME RESPONSIBILITY TO MODERATE THE
EMOTIONS WHICH SURROUND THE ISSUE.

4. ALL OF THIS SHOWED A MUCH LESS SANGUINE RALLIS THAN I FIRST
MET SHORTLY AFTER ASSUMING OFFICE. MAYBE HE RECOGNIZES THE
MURPHY'S LAW THAT PLAYS IN EVERY FOREIGN MINISTER'S LIFE.
WHATEVER, HE IS NOW LESS CRITICAL OF THE GOC AND PRESIDENT
KYPRIANOU INDIVIDUALLY AND, IF NOT INFLUENCED BY, AT LEAST TAKING
INTO ACCOUNT THE DAILY FOREBODINGS OF THIS OUTRAGEOUS PRESS
IN ATHENS.

5. SEPARATELY, I INQUIRED ABOUT EXPECTATIONS GROWING OUT OF
CARAMANLIS' RENEWED OFFER OF A NON-AGGRESSION PACT TO TURKEY.
HIS WERE NOT HIGH, RALLIS SAID, EXPLAINING THAT ECEVIT'S
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RESPONSE TO THE OFFER WAS A "YES, BUT." IN ANY CASE, GREECE
HAD PRODUCED A DRAFT TEXT WHICH IT WOULD INTRODUCE WHEN
THE INTERLOCUTORS MEET JULY 4 AND AWAIT A FURTHER TURKISH
RESPONSE. HE DID NOT ASK FOR OUR OPINION BUT DID OFFER ME A
COPY OF THE DRAFT WHICH HAS BEEN SENT BY SEPTEL.
MCCLOSKEY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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